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VOL. 2



CALGARY, JUNE 7, 1918

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## BROTHER, FALL IN.

"Does it make you mad when you read about  
Some poor, starved devil who flickered  
out,  
Because he had never a decent chance  
In the tangled meshes of circumstance?  
If it makes you burn like the fires of  
sin,  
Brother, you're fit for the ranks—fall  
in!

"Does it make you rage when you  
come to learn,  
Of a clean-souled woman who could  
not earn  
Enough to live, and who fought, but fell  
In the cruel struggle and went to hell  
Does it make you see them with anger  
hot?  
Brother, we welcome you—share our  
lot!

"Whoever has blood that will flood his  
face  
At the sight of the beast in the holy  
place.  
Whoever has rage for the tyrant's  
might,  
For the powers that prey in the day  
and night  
Whoever has hate for the ravening  
brute  
That strips the tree of its goodly fruit

"Whoever knows wrath at the sight of  
pain,  
Of needless sorrow and heedless gain  
Whoever knows bitterness, shame and  
gall  
At the thought of the trampled ones  
doomed to fall  
He is a brother-in-blood, we know,  
With brain afire and heart a-glow  
By the light in his eyes we sense our  
kin—  
Brother, you battle with us—fall in!"

—BERTRAM BRALEY.

—F. J. DIXON, M.L.A., in Calgary.

## WHAT CANADA NEEDS

What is needed in Canada is a few  
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who could soon change social and econ-  
omic conditions in this country. There are  
a few doing that now. More are needed.  
There is a movement somewhere calling  
to every man,  
—F. J. Dixon

\* \* \*

A Winnipeg war widow is the first  
woman in that city to drive a bread  
wagon.

## THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT.

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liked to see the duty entirely removed  
from agricultural implements. I have  
been contending for the last twenty-five  
or thirty years for free agricultural im-  
plements, but up to the present time we have  
been disappointed. I recognize, however,  
that there was a compact between the two  
parties when they joined together last  
year to form a Union Government that the  
war was the paramount issue and that  
the tariff should remain in abeyance un-  
til after the war."—R. L. Richardson, M.P.

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## CURRENT HISTORY

### The "Back to the Land" Movement

We have received the following from the Department of the Interior:

"In view of the rapid exhaustion during recent years of available Crown Lands in close proximity to the railways, a shortage which has been accentuated by the reservation in the interests of soldier settlement, the desire on the part of prospective settlers to procure land within reasonable distance of a line of transportation has suggested to the Department of the Interior the listings of the names and addresses of the owners of those quarter-sections of unoccupied and non-producing lands which are lying dormant so far as agricultural production is concerned, the presumption being that in a number of cases the owners would be interested from either a financial or patriotic point of view in offers on the part of prospective settlers to purchase or lease their holdings.

"The vital necessity for increasing the acreage under crop makes it essential that assistance be rendered by all agencies that might be instrumental in assisting the 'Back to the land' movement. Now that the truth of the somewhat crude expression attributed to Napoleon that 'an army travels upon its stomach' is being emphasized more and more as the 'Great War' progresses, no better argument could possibly be advanced as to the imperative need for increasing our production which of course, entails an immediate increase in the acreage under crop.

"The lists are available for distribution covering the various land districts throughout the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, those for Alberta to follow at an early date. Applicants should state the district in which they are interested when making application to the Natural Resources Intelligence Branch of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa."

Divorced from its somewhat verbose language the Department wants to find out the names of those who might possibly want to rent or take hold of this land and thus assist in the development of the country.

To this wonderful effusion, I sent the following reply:—

Calgary, Alta., May 25th, 1918.  
Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:—

I have the enclosed circular in the mail this morning. In view of the Dominion Government's action upon the Land question I submit with all due humility and deference to constituted authority that this circular is positively intensely jocular and tremendously humorous.

You come forward with the suggestion that the owners of vacant lands in the West might be willing to lease their holdings for patriotic reasons. Did it ever occur to you that an appeal of this nature should be directed first to the department of which you are the head and that for patriotic reasons should adopt this course with the school lands of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan which the Dominion Government controls.

There are available in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan 14,000,000 acres of school lands. The present arrangement is that these lands are disposed of from time to time by sale. Why would it not be a wise policy to lease these lands upon 99 year leases at the rental of 5 per cent. upon their assessed valuation and subject to revaluation every five years? Not only would this increase the production for

patriotic purposes but it would increase the revenues of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan for school purposes and would greatly stimulate settlement and development of the unoccupied lands of these two Provinces.

At one time this Spring there were twenty men provided with ample funds to go upon such land advertising in the Calgary Daily Herald for farms to rent. Imagine it, Mr. Minister of the Interior—over seven million acres of vacant school lands in this Province alone—twenty men crying aloud for a chance to go on the lands—all these millions of acres available and under the control of the Dominion Government and the only answer of the Department of the Interior is a multi-graphed circular of three paragraphs with the touching conclusion that applicants who are interested in getting lands might communicate with the Natural Resources Intelligence Branch of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa and that this department is preparing lists of lands held by other people.

I presume that you will say that this course of action is wholly impossible. I have discussed the matter with probably a thousand people varying in their lines of thought and activity from laboring men and evangelists to Cabinet Ministers and newspaper men. I have never heard a single argument advanced against it that could stand the chance of the proverbial snow-ball and I submit it now to the Minister of the Interior with the hope that should it secure no better fate it may at least receive his thoughtful consideration.

Yours very truly,

Taken together these two communications present the astounding fact that our Unionist Government is ready and willing to do anything except to assist the people in removing the obstruction of the land grabber.

Assisting landlords to rent their farms is a glorious task, but for the Government to rent its own land would be much more advantageous from the standpoint of the Canadian People at this period when we are all trying to do so much to win the war.

\* \* \*

### THE HERALD AGAIN

A few days ago there appeared in the Calgary Herald a little item on agitators in which the Herald suggested that Winnipeg had been too mild with the Riggs and Dixons. Well now, what do you know about this? What crime has either Riggs or Dixon committed which is considered worthy of censure by our great Moral daily paper, the Calgary Herald? These men have striven to present the idea that wealth should be made to contribute to the war as well as life.

Not for a moment would we carry this into a personal matter between the Riggs, Dixons, Woods and Cairns. The son of Mr. Riggs is serving in the Flying Corp. Mr. Rigg himself has joined a construction battalion and now is either in training or at the front. The brother of F. J. Dixon went early in the fight. He has been missing since 1915. Probably he has paid the price. F. J. Dixon himself is a married man with a family, has never profiteered from the war and is not now in the draft age. It is no reflection we take it upon Messrs. Woods and Cairns that it is open to grave doubt if through their personal relations they have felt as keenly and closely the fell impact of war as the men they so flippantly condemn.

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## THE CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

### An Organization of Reactionary Forces

The patience of those who have been anxiously scanning the political and industrial horizon of Canada for signs of an organization to tackle the problems of reconstruction is at last rewarded. The Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association, Crown Life Building, Toronto, has issued a pamphlet outlining the objects of this association.

Written as if emanating from an association of disinterested patriots whose motives are above suspicion, it talks portentously of our duty to "maintain in strength and efficiency the industries of the country upon which labor and agriculture, town and townships, so greatly depend."

Its objects, as stated in the pamphlet, are (1) to maintain industrial stability and (2) to secure wise consideration and prudent treatment of problems of Reconstruction. To find out the moving spirits of this noble band, impelled by considerations of duty (we are not now dealing with the word in its narrow tariff sense) we glance over the names of the executive committee, and find amongst others the following: Senator Curry, Sir John Wilson, Lieut.-Col. Harry Cockshutt, William Stone, Esq., and Major A. H. Worthington. The committee just bristles with the names of other powerful magnates, noted for their devotion to the public weal, but this selection should convince even the most skeptical of the singleness of purpose of these gentlemen and the sincerity of their slogan: "Unity, Stability, Prosperity."

That they are thoroughly alive to the dangerous doctrines that are being propagated regarding the taxation of wealth to pay the war debt, will be seen from the following quotation of Harold Cox, whom they describe as an independent British Liberal, not at all friendly to capital. "A man who saves money in order to equip a munition factory, or to cultivate a neglected farm, or to build a ship, or to work a coal mine, is serving his country as much as a man who buys war bonds, and his investments ought also to be exempted."

They hasten to add with Pecksniffianunction that "it is not suggested that the industries of the country should escape their fair and full share of war and general taxation. "It is clear, however, that without adequate working capital wages cannot be fully maintained nor can the best grades of labor be em-

ployed, the goods manufactured improved in quality, or risks taken in seeking a wider market or providing against unemployment."

With tears in their voice, they protest their anxiety for the welfare of the returned soldier, and claim that "employers and workmen, labor unions and veterans' organizations, have a mutual interest in opposing unwise taxation and illegitimate competition in the domestic market." They do not take kindly to the idea of raising the national revenues by direct taxation. O dear no! "Land taxation would retard immigration and settlement," and we need "a great influx of desirable settlers . . . in order that the individual burden may be lessened by distribution over a larger population."

These gentlemen are willing to go to any length to save the Empire. The American humorist who, during the Civil War, said that he was quite prepared to sacrifice all his wife's relatives on the altar of their country, has nothing on them. "Customs duties must continue to be the chief source of revenue," they opine "and should enable us to create and maintain new industries and take full advantage of all that we have learned during the war of processes of manufacture, stores of raw material and requirements of overseas markets." Here is a hint of another set of "infant industries" to be nursed along at the expense of the Canadian people.

A war after the war in trade and commerce is strenuously advocated. With great solemnity the bogie of German competition is trotted out. We are told the rivers of Germany are lined with ships ready to seize the carrying trade of the world and dump German goods by the hundred thousand tons onto our markets.

In spite of the lofty sentiments professed, amounting almost to transcendentalism (and these gentlemen are obsessed by the idea that their personal interests coincide with the national welfare) the whole pamphlet in our opinion is a barefaced attempt to deflect public opinion from the real problems of reconstruction which necessarily imply a change in the economic basis of society.

There is no desire here to reconstruct, but a strongly marked determination to revert to pre-war conditions. The Canadian people are appealed to for support in reinforcing the bulwarks of exploitation. These men have not caught the vision of a new social order won for Canada by the sacrifice of Canadian lives on the fields of Flanders. They are concerned chiefly with discussing the



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most effective methods to combat this growing conception of human welfare which threatens to make deep inroads into the entrenchments of privilege.

This thinly veiled attempt to rally the forces of reaction should meet with a prompt reply from the Labor and Radical elements in Canada. The need is great for a unifying of the progressive forces in order that they may be prepared to tackle the problems of reconstruction which are already occupying the attention of the Capitalists.

—WAYFARER.



"Politics is the business of the people"



## The Alberta Non-Partisan

For the creation of Independent and Progressive Thought and Action.

Published on alternate Thursdays

Wm. Irvine, Editor J. H. Ford, Business Mgr  
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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

### THE BACKWOODS OR JUSTICE, WHICH?

Everyone agree that our returned soldiers who desire to farm should have access to land, and further that they should not be forced to go to the backwoods in that country for which they have so courageously offered their lives.

Here is the situation. Millions of acres of our best Canadian lands were granted to railroad companies, or sold to speculators for an old song, by thoughtless and greedy politicians who had not thought for the future. These companies have held these lands out of use while the toiling homesteader opened up the country, built roads, and forces the price of land up to a high figure, through improving it. Frequently the homesteaders had to build roads over miles of vacant idle land (owned by the land sharks) before they could get communication with the civilized world, or avail themselves of the necessary transportation facilities. Much of the idle land thus kept out of use is still uncultivated, awaiting the high prices of the next boom. Many far-seeing thinkers and economists have striven to have this land privilege withdrawn, but were always met with the retort that "these privileges are held by right of law and cannot be interfered with without upsetting the constitution."

But along comes the great war, thousands of our young men enlist, do their bit, and return to make a home for themselves in the country they have fought for. What is to be done? Either these men must be sent back from the means of transportation and communication to farm

at a loss, or they must use the vacant lands adjacent to railroads.

As things are now, the soldiers would have to pay the land speculator a very high price for the opportunity of raising wheat to help win the war. Is this fair? What did the land speculator ever do to get this rake-off? Ought the soldier to pay an extortionate price before he is allowed to live on the land he has defended from a greedy enemy? No! A thousand times over, No! The lands of Canada must be available for use, without penalizing the man who wants to use it and thus giving hostages to parasites.

\* \* \*

### CRACKING THE CONSTITUTION

The government is alive in a small way to the situation. It has decided to crack the constitution in the case of the Indian Reserves, but will it explain why it pounces on the Indian and passes over the C. P. R.? In a political sense the answer is clear, but from the point of view of British justice it is not clear. How this can be done in a country that has been "saved for Democracy" by the blood of thousands is a question that politicians alone can solve.

We are not comparing the rights of our returned men with those of the Indians. We believe that it is not only just that our men should have all the land they want to use, but also that they would use land to much better advantage than Indians. So far so good.

But the Indians are making better use of their land than the speculators. They are at least making part of their living upon it by honest toil. The Indians were here before the C. P. R.; they were by treaty granted certain rights in connection with reserves; they are working their lands to the best of their skill and ability, and some day in the future will make good. But the land hog who holds land by special privilege has no such claim. They are a menace to the best interests of any community and have no right to be protected. We think that the C. P. R. should have no more consideration than the poor Indian, and urge that its (?) lands should be dealt with in a similar manner.

The government's action in the case of the Indians leaves no room for excuse if large landlords are allowed to continue monopolizing land they are too lazy to farm. If precedent can be ignored, and laws set aside in the case of Indian Reserve land, there is no reason why the same should not be done in the case of railway companies, and land monopolists

### IS COMPETITION PATRIOTIC?

In times like these, when every man and woman should be engaged in work that is necessary to the well being of the state, it might well be asked why competition should be allowed to continue. If the demand be so urgent as to warrant calling men from the plow and we believe it is, although we believe the same to be bad business, why should we not call the thousands of people who are doing work that is absolutely useless in aiding the war, to take the places of the young men who are called from the plow?

Think for a moment of the needless duplication in all the professions; of the thousands of general stores and offices throughout the Dominion, all scrambling to do the same work; think of the factories and the railways, and the mining companies all in competition with each other, and then think of the numbers that could be free for farm work, or military service were competition abolished.

What we need most of all in Canada is a government that dares to take a step in a new direction, and with ability to organize and carry the scheme through. One distributing point should be sufficient for each city; all necessary work should be centralized and under strict supervision. One railway should be made efficient, where only one is necessary, and the others put aside for the present at least, and every business of a private character should be absolutely prohibited.

This is not only a drastic, but an enormous and necessary procedure, but it is not likely that a government so strongly influenced as ours by private capital, and so wedded to the idea of competition and profit will ever take it.

But if there is going to be any victory, this is the road which leads to it. This will not only lead to the victory so strongly desired in Europe, but it will lead to an ultimate victory for democracy at home.

Government action is necessary in this matter. It is all very well to expect people to volunteer, but while the voluntary method was practically successful in building up our army, it has been an absolute failure in so far as business and wealth are concerned. These must be conscripted, and there is no time to be lost in doing it. Private business for private gain, and duplication of plants and businesses is criminal at this time. We cannot have the desired army, the desired production, and the desired competition all at once. Which shall we give up? If we give up or impair the

efficiency of either of the former, we will lose in the conflict. It is clear that competition must go, and when once it has gone it will never come back. Let's have Co-operation and Victory.

\* \* \*

### C. P. R. AGAIN

The C. P. R. are again at loggerheads with their staff; this time it is the dining car employees. It appears that the employees in the dining car service joined a labor organization without consulting the C. P. R. officials. The officials were, therefore, much surprised and very indignant that the waiters who were receiving thirty-five dollars per month and the chefs who were receiving ninety-five per month should have the temerity to join an organization without saying if you please.

One by one the belligerent waiters were brought before mighty officialdom. As they appeared before the mighty, they were curtly interrogated as to whether they belonged to an organization or not. Those who answered in the affirmative were told to withdraw from the organization or they would be discharged and their places filled by negroes or women; evidently the C. P. R. officials prefer negroes to women. To the credit of the employees, the majority refused to give up the organization, and stoutly maintained the right to organize. These gentlemen now find themselves walking the streets of Calgary, their jobs filled by the dark-skinned natives of the south.

To import one hundred negroes requires some explanation. The C.P.R. officials again rose to the occasion. Many were the platitudes issued to the press by their publicity bureau. The most amusing defense of all was a statement to the effect that this was a war measure, and the negroes were imported for the dining car service in order that the white help might be released to follow a more useful occupation.

Just think of this kindly, thoughtful, patriotic institution importing negroes in order to help the increased production movement. The men who were released are less able to do arduous labor than the negroes. Some of the discharged employees have been in France and still retain evidence of their acquaintance with the Huns; yet the negroes have generously consented to relieve them of their occupation. There are a large number of returned soldiers who would be only too glad of a job on the dining cars, but, then, they also might join a union.

It is worthy of note that the C.P.R. were unable to secure white help to break up the organization, but were

compelled to import negroes and Orientals. The union has applied for a board of investigation. We understand the board has been granted.

Let us hope that the decision of the board will be that the C.P.R. will not be allowed to break the laws of Canada and import cheap labor to break up the unions. To organize a union is the inalienable right of all. That right must be maintained at every cost.

\* \* \*

### FREE SPEECH.

Among the many new and strange theories arising out of the war, none is perhaps more persistent than the idea that certain principles, are, under the exceptional and abnormal conditions at present obtaining, no longer valid. In pre-war times, no one would have seriously maintained, for instance, that the principle of freedom of speech and discussion, one of those glorious liberties for which our forefathers have bled and died, and in praise of which our poets have sung their loftiest strains, should at any time or in any circumstances be permitted to lapse.

But "new times demand new measures and new men," and recently the amazing doctrine has been more advanced, that, in the defence of our ancient liberties, we should not balk at the sacrifice of freedom itself.

As a glaring instance of this form of sophistry, we may instance a recent leading article in the "Calgary Herald," in which the writer, while claiming that the "Herald" is not, and has never been, an exponent of the suppression of free speech, demands, on the ground that "these are not ordinary times," that authority should take measures to discountenance, and, if necessary, to prohibit entirely, the activities of certain "soap-box orators," in which category it is pleased to include "the Riggs and Dixons," of Winnipeg.

We understand that "the Riggs," who have incurred the displeasure of Calgary's Northcliffes, are at present engaged in the active defence of those liberties which the Herald is so desirous of curtailing, while we leave it to those of our readers who had the pleasure of hearing F. J. Dixon during this recent western tour, to judge of the appropriateness of the Herald's description of our friend as a "professional agitator of the soap-box type."

But the personal question is of small concern here; what is of much greater significance is this gradual permeation of the world of ideas by Prussian poison gas, which, if continued, threatens eventually to completely asphyxiate all independent thought.

Any theory, be it religious, ethical, philosophical or political, which cannot survive the test of emergency, is doomed ultimately to disappear from the realm of thought and if the principles of democracy and liberty are inapplicable in all circumstances and all times, be they ordinary or extraordinary, the war might as well as be called off, and acknowledgment made of the fact that, whatever success the Hun may have lacked on the field of battle, in the field of ideas the Prussian theory has, as was long ago predicted by Thomas Carlyle, converted the world.

\* \* \*

### CAN LABOR WIN?

The Winnipeg strike has demonstrated the fact that when a great principle is at stake labor men outside of those directly affected are prepared to sacrifice their own individual interests in defence of their fellow workers. The C.P.R. warned their workers that all who joined the sympathetic strike would lose their standing on the pension roll and would be treated as new employees, but this did not deter some hundreds from joining the strikers.

This is the spirit that will carry the Labor movement through many a hard fight in the future, and the settlement of the Winnipeg strike marks one of the greatest victories in the history of organized labor in Canada.

The usual cry of disloyalty was raised against the strikers, and one Toronto paper, foaming at the mouth, suggested that the leaders be removed "by the agency of a firing squad" and hoped "that the Federal Government would intervene with a heavy hand." The time is past when mailed fist tactics of this nature can bully or stampede the working class into abandoning principles like the right to strike, which they have succeeded in establishing after years of organized effort. Senator Robertson who was sent by the Government to settle the strike, said that a matter of principle could not be arbitrated and that the men were wholly in the right in maintaining their right to strike which is one of the fundamental principles of Trade Unionism.

Employers of labor in Canada are making the most of the war conditions to cover up their insidious attempt to disrupt the ranks of the workers under the cloak of patriotism. The Trade Unions have already proven their patriotism by the large proportion of their members who enlisted voluntarily. We have yet to hear of the Capitalist in Canada who surrendered his plant to the state in the interest of the National welfare.

# The Non-Partisan Movement

WHAT HAPPENED AT OTTAWA.

By James Miner, of Bawlf, Alta.



If the farmers of Alberta get together they can get the leave of absence needed for their boys. That is the impression I have gained from my trip to Ottawa. Hold meetings, concentrate your efforts and exercise all the influence possible on the Government.

The outcome of the splendid meetings held on May 4th and 6th at Edberg and New Norway was a delegation to Calgary to report what steps could be taken. Very little information was available at the local U.F.A. offices, while at the Registrar's office we were told, point blank, nothing could be done. The Secretary of the N.P.L. assisted in giving press publicity to the telegrams sent to Mr. Crerar, and replies received. These were also printed and sent to all parts of the province, and a further mass meeting at Edberg was decided upon the next day, May 9th. Then the delegation to Ottawa was appointed and O. G. Paulsen and myself were chosen. We had a fifty-mile auto run to Tofteld to catch the Grand Trunk train in the early morning, and arrived at Ottawa 8 p. m. on May 13th.

Never were there such crowds seen before, increasing by every incoming train. Many hundreds could obtain no beds and paraded the streets all night. The English-speaking farmers met in Russell Theatre, and the French-speaking farmers in another theatre, afterwards conferring together by committees appointed. At 11 a. m., on the 14th, we met the government representatives in the Russell Theatre—Borden, Mewburn and Crerar. It was a fearful crush and half the audience could not hear the speakers, but the utmost decorum prevailed. It was the largest delegation I have ever been in, and I was surprised that the Ontario and Quebec farmers were so much aroused over the situation and were in such complete harmony. The ministers were impressed with the earnestness shown and the unanimity of purpose. Just as many stood outside awaiting the result.

After our views had been presented, the Premier spoke, but gave no hope of consideration being given to the requests presented. "The exemption given last fall was in the national interest as we understood it then; the order-in-council passed recently abolishing exemption is also in the national interest, as we understand it now," was the tenor of Sir Robert Borden's address. At the close, he read the telegram from the U.F.A. executive, which was interpreted as standing by the government and expressing the hope that farmers would loyally support the action taken by the government. I asked to be allowed to speak, as I was sure this was not an expression of the feeling of the rank and file of the Alberta farmers, and thought the resolutions had been misinterpreted. However, I could not get a word in on their behalf.

The meeting decided to send a deputation of five to lay their case before the speaker and House of Commons. President Halbert, of the U.F.O., was a member of this

deputation. A call to gather later in the day at the Arena was given, and the farmers, rather disconsolate at the Premier's reply, streamed out from every available exit, and soon the grounds around the City Hall were jammed with people, a big crowd of curious citizens adding to the multitude.

The Arena is said to accommodate twenty thousand people, and the crowds came at two o'clock, and it soon was comfortably filled. Arthur Hawkes did good service in helping to draft resolutions, and the crowd decided to march on Parliament demanding to be heard. A procession, six thousand strong, went down at 8 p. m., but Borden was not to be found. The Premier had informed the delegation in the afternoon that their remonstrance could be given on the floor of the House of Commons, but in the evening Hon. Arthur Sifton stated on behalf of the government this privilege could not be granted. Sifton was "Boss" that evening.

Following this, committees were named to see individual ministers, and C. W. Gurney, of Ontario, and myself, were deputed to see Gen. Mewburn, Minister of Militia, and Mr. Justice Duff. Every possible point was made. We emphasized the demoralization being caused on the farms; even the curtailment of production of half a million acres in Alberta alone made no difference. The order could not be cancelled, but we were assured that widows' sons and fathers with only sons would be protected, also that individual farmers with their crops in, or partially in, would be given leave of absence to garner it. Justice Duff also stated that all that was possible would be done to get labor for the harvest, even going so far as to say that those absolutely required on the farms would be left there.

Both Mewburn and Duff emphasized it was the city slacker they were after, though we couldn't see it that way. Our interview gave us a chance to show what Alberta had done voluntarily in comparison with other provinces, and if the farmers could get together on the matter this would be taken into consideration in connection with leave of absence for Alberta farmers.

After the refusal was given by "Friend Sifton" to the delegation to appear at the bar of the House, a meeting followed and a strong remonstrance was registered against the dangerous curtailment of the liberties of the people by the flagrant departures made from the honored processes of law enjoined by the constitution and set aside by order-in-council. "We believe that reliance upon Parliament, instead of upon arbitrary authority, most effectively honors the guarantee of freedom which are embedded in the constitution." It also called upon the members not to be too subservient to the powers that had been created. The resolution was in vigorous language, but though of interest to every farmer, would take too much space to give.

We returned on May 20th and reported at Edberg meeting that something had been accomplished and that cases of hardship would have attention and that some exemptions would be granted. The government now knew what we wanted, and a few of the things we expected to be put through. Also, it is now known what they can expect from us at next election time—whenver that may come.—JAS. MINER.

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## Our Parliamentary Letter

From Our Special Correspondent

Our Correspondent at Ottawa writes: "If I can find time during June I will send a summary of the political situation as I see it, and a forecast of the future." The appreciation these articles have met with is evidenced by the many expressions of approval that have reached us.

Ottawa, May 28th, 1918.



An instance of how the people's money is needlessly wasted was revealed on May 15th. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Chief Justice of Canada was given an allowance of twenty-five hundred dollars per annum for his services and expenses in attending sittings of

the Privy Council in London and during two recent years in which he attended no sittings he had succeeded in drawing this allowance. The Government was only too eager to furnish this information about Sir Charles, who is a Catholic and an ex-member of the Laurier Government, and at once the Orange pack were in full cry. There was every justice this time for their criticism and the Chief Justice has now announced that he will make restitution of five thousand dollars but it should have been impossible for him ever to draw it. May the 16th was consumed in a futile party squabble over the Yukon election. The facts of the case are beyond dispute. The seat legally belongs to Mr. Congdon, the Liberal, but on the other hand, had the nominations taken place before the polling the soldiers vote, which gave him the victory, it would undoubtedly have still gone the same way in favor of Dr. Thompson. However, the proper course was to refer the matter to the Supreme Court. In Great Britain all questions in regard to elections are left to judicial decision and the same policy should hold good in Canada. The Minister of Justice presented an inspiring spectacle when he declared that he had no confidence in the law. Are only our trade unions, returned soldiers and farmers always to have confidence in it when it is invoked against them? In the Special committee some of the Unionists had shown independence but when the House voted they were all brought to time with the exception of Mr. Campbell of Le Pas.

Meanwhile various Revenue Acts were passed through the House. There was a discussion on the Patriotic Fund and the general opinion seemed to be that after this year the Government would have to take over its responsibilities and make the state assume the whole maintenance of the families of soldiers who are in need. A plea that the Patriotic Fund should include in its activities the families of the soldiers fighting under the flag of other countries received sympathetic hearing and will probably be agreed to. The Soldiers' Settlement Board came up for discussion and Mr. Meighen found considerable criticism of his report. The Board has been in operation since January 1st of last year and its apparent exploits are not remarkable. It has advanced loans to 272 soldiers, who had left their homesteads to fight, to the amount of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars but it has created no new farmers out of the soldiers so far. The difficulty is to

find good land near the railways and the soldiers resolutely decline to face the loneliness and hardships of pioneering in outlying regions when millions of acres of good land held by corporations and speculators are available near the railways. The Government hitherto has timidly shrunk from tackling the problem but sooner or later it must be tackled if the country is to have any chance of recuperation and if our returning army is not to be left to shift for itself in a disgraceful manner. The 20th was given up to the routine business of putting through Acts amending the Customs tariff, the business profits tax and the income war tax. Mr. Rowell's estimates came up in the evening and some most interesting interludes occurred. The Laurier Liberals will talk in tones of almost lyrical affection of Messrs. Cresser, Calder and Carvell but in regard to Mr. Rowell their language lacks neither fire nor color. There is no doubt that the course of Mr. Rowell's negotiations with Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1917, if revealed to the public would read like a romance and there is grave suspicion that he hunted with the hare and ran with the hounds till the last minute. The charges which the Hon. Charles Murphy made against his commercialized christianity in the opening days of the session have remained unanswered and the presumption is that no answer can be given. During the late campaign Mr. Rowell, who is a professedly zealous follower of Christ, made some most illiberal and unchristian attacks upon the Catholic Church and has thereby earned himself the undying hostility of the opposition. His whole recent course in politics is sadly out of keeping with his pietist professions. Accordingly when Mr. Rowell's estimates came up the opposition had mustered in full force and had their ammunition ready. Mr. Rowell has a secretary, a literary minded young gentleman called Main Johnson, who also aspires to be a poet. Lately there appeared in the Toronto Globe some articles under the signature of Donald Hunt, eulogising in unmeasured terms, the great services of Mr. Rowell to the Cabinet and the Empire. The opposition alleged that Donald Hunt concealed the identity of Mr. Main Johnson and declared that a public servant had no business to indulge in such subterranean literary enterprises. Mr. Rowell did not handle the situation boldly. He might have admitted that Mr. Main Johnson was Donald Hunt and asserted that it was none of his business or that of the opposition what his secretary did in his spare time. Instead he equivocated and vacillated and the opposition soon had him at their mercy. Ministers are allowed six hundred dollars as an allowance for a secretary and usually make this sum up to fifteen or eighteen hundred out of their own pockets but Mr. Rowell is a thrifty man of business and instead of resorting to his private purse, it transpired that he had jobbed Mr. Main Johnson into a Privy Council clerkship at twenty-eight hundred dollars per annum. Thirty-four hundred dollars seems a fairly extravagant salary in these days of economy, to pay even Mr. Rowell's secretary and the whole business left a very bad impression on the House, especially on the top of the high sounding professions of great zeal for a new Heaven on earth with which Mr. Rowell has deluged us for months.

The truth is that Mr. N. Rowell is an exceedingly dangerous foe to democracy.

He is the same combination of religious bigot and selfish pusher who has bedevilled the liberal party in Great Britain for many years. He is a close friend of Sir Joseph Flavelle, Mr. E. R. Wood and other financial magnates of Toronto and at heart he is about as liberal as these patriots are. For the rest of the evening the opposition baited poor Mr. Rowell and their malice against him was obvious, as estimates of other ministers had been easily passed. A few days later Mr. MacMaster returned to the attack and practically read Mr. Rowell out of the Liberal party. He expressed the hope that he would not go over to London whither he has now gone and pose as a sort of modern George Brown who had joined Union Government to save Canada. He declared that he would see his career in the Tory party with pleasure but did not want him back as a Liberal. There is very little future for Mr. Rowell in the Tory party with whom he is far from popular and it seems as if he had short-sightedly ended his career through excessive eagerness for office at any cost.

On the 21st Dr. Thompson was finally ratified as member for the Yukon and the resumption of the debate on hereditary titles began with a speech by Sir Robert Borden. The Premier moved an amendment to Mr. Richardson's amendment in favor of the total abolition of titles and reserved the right to confer knighthoods. A lengthy debate ensued. Mr. Burnham, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Nickel pronounced themselves still in favor of a more radical policy and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other opposition members concurred with them. There was every possibility that the radical amendment would pass as the temper of the House was obviously in its favor but Sir Robert Borden suddenly rose and in a pettish and peremptory speech announced that he would make the issue one of confidence and resign if his reservation of knighthoods was not accepted. It was a somewhat strange display for a man who has talked for months about universal sacrifices to the last man and the last dollar to rise and declare that if the House did not play his way about titles he would not play at all. Meanwhile the whips were put on and the Unionists swung into line and knighthoods were saved from the wreck by a majority of 33. Mr. Richardson, the mover of the radical amendment made a most inglorious appearance by offering to withdraw his amendment and running away from the vote, to the general amazement and disgust of intelligent members of the House. Other more courageous figures like Messrs. Nickle, Fielding and Foster stuck to their colors and voted with the opposition. The Government majority was cut down to 33. The Liberal Unionists were most indignant afterwards in the lobbies at the Premier's performance especially in view of the fact that Sir Wilfrid had expressly declared it was not a party question. However, it is probably the end of all titles in Canada as the Opposition will make it a plank in their platform and the Unionists to avoid the charge of being anti-democratic will have to follow suit.

May 22nd was chiefly devoted to a discussion of the methods adopted in taking the soldiers' vote overseas. Mr. W. T. R. Preston, a celebrated veteran of elections, who had been in charge of the Laurier campaign overseas had come to Canada laden with evidence as to the multitude of malpractices in taking the soldiers' vote. He had prepared an enormous brief which was entrusted to Mr. A. B. Copp, a New Brunswick member. Mr. Copp is not an electrifying speaker but he occupied four

# WILL HE EVER BITE AGAIN?



hours in a long recital of misdeeds, by election officers which he verified by affidavits and other evidence. If all that Mr. Copp stated was true, there must have been many very grave irregularities. Mr. Burrell and Mr. Sifton were entrusted with the Government's defence but their main pleas were that as the soldiers' vote did not affect the real result, the charges were negligible and should be disregarded. Mr. Archambault, a Quebec member gave an amusing account of how hundreds of outside soldiers' votes had been marshalled to elect his opponent in Chambley-Vercheres but in vain. The amendment demanding an inquiry was negatived by 31 votes. At this sitting it was decided to continue the pay of Civil servants overseas which the Government had proposed to stop. A bill was introduced permitting the banks to close at 2.30 p.m. and a slight amendment by the Senate to the Civil Service Act was agreed to. Thursday, May 23rd was the last sitting of the House. Mr. Rowell brought in a report of the Select Committee on Pensions in which certain important changes were recommended, and Col. Labatt's retiral approved of. The Government had been bringing forward a bill to change the War Times Election Act and Sir Willfrid suddenly sprang an amendment for its complete repeal. The Government were taken by surprise and could only muster a majority of 21 to defeat it. Mr. McLean announced an amendment by the Senate relieving from the Canadian income tax, outside investors, special pleaders in the Upper House had inserted it on the old ground that income taxation of foreign investors would drive away foreign capital. Mr. McLean asked the Commons to accept the amendment under protest. A very noxious bill was rushed through to provide for zinc bounties. These will largely inure to the benefit of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Granby, B.C.,

which is understood to be largely controlled by the C.P.R. and is a wealthy corporation. Mr. Turiff and others protested against this bounty but their protests were of no avail. Mr. Vien next succeeded in putting upon Hansard correspondence which the indignant farmers of Ontario had addressed to the Duke of Devonshire. At the same time the Government announced certain concessions to the farmers which allowed the continuance of exemptions of only sons and sole survivors of a family. Meantime Sir Willfrid Laurier questioned Sir George Foster as to the forthcoming imperial conference and elicited the information that Messrs. Meighen, Calder and Rowell were to accompany the Premier. This quartette were obviously anxious to escape across the ocean and every effort was exercised to rush business through. Within the last four days of the House millions of dollars of public money was recklessly voted away without adequate inquiry and examination and many members, both Unionist and Liberal, felt that the interests of the country had been set aside for the whims of the Executive. It is impossible that the united brains of our four ministers now on the high seas can lend any great assistance to the solution of the problems in Europe and it would have been infinitely more fitting if they had stuck to their posts and confined their attentions to the business of the country which entrusted them with office. Members were glad to depart and not a few of them went home with the feeling that they were very minor cogs in a very autocratic machine.

—BYSTANDER.

\* \* \*  
Five hundred farmers in Wisconsin gathered at Madison last month to form a non-partisan party.

In writing advertisers mention "The Non-Partisan".

## THE FIRST LOCAL CONVENTION

The first convention for the purpose of effecting local organizations in the constituencies was held at Cardston on May 25th, and proved most successful. Cardston has the honor of leading the way, and the splendid spirit and enthusiasm shown augurs well for the future of Non-Partisanism in the Province.

At the afternoon convention a committee of nineteen was selected from different points in the constituency. Mr. J. H. Anderson, of Cardston, being elected chairman, and Mr. John Parrish was appointed secretary. Mrs. McKinney and Mr. James Weir were present and gave the members a little inspiring talk at the convention.

In the evening a crowded mass meeting was held, Mrs. McKinney and Mr. Weir being the speakers. Their work in the last session of the Legislature was fully dealt with and the crowded audience was roused to a high pitch of enthusiasm throughout, the Non-Partisan spirit having taken good root in the Cardston district. Mr. H. A. McGlenning, of Fishburn, arrived during the meeting and conveyed the greetings of the Executive and wished the Cardston members the attainment of a real success for cleaner politics and better government. Mr. J. H. Anderson presided. Mr. B. C. Moore, the head organizer of the League, was present and directed the proceedings of the day. Great credit is due to Mr. Frank May, of Beazer, for the advertising and arrangements made for both convention and meeting. We had hoped to receive a detailed report of the proceedings, and it may be possible to publish same in our next issue.

# The Non-Partisan Letter Box

## A FIGHTER FOR DEMOCRACY

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN.

Dear Sir:—

Your last issue pleases me, and just to show you that I am quite in line with your teaching, I will give you a little personal experience. At a previous election I was reading the "Morning Albertan" when it contained an insulting item on the intelligence of farmers. I wrote them to stop their paper, as an insult to my class was an insult to me, and I would no longer tolerate their sheet, and I switched to the Herald. All went well till last Dominion election came on, when "Farmer Jim Weir" was most insultingly dealt with. I wrote the editor to stop my paper since not only did he insult me when he slurred the man whom we had chosen high in office in the U.F.A., but elected to the House at Edmonton, moreover, he proved besides his falsity to the idea of true unity when he so used the word "farmer" as to make it an "epithet" stirring up the dissension among the Canadian people in the matter of their calling.

This time the editor politely answered my letter, trying to retain me as a sheep of his flock. He said: "You must have meant your criticism for the News-Telegram—which is supporting Laurier in the election. The Herald is supporting union and unity." Having told him that I quite believed he was supporting a "Union Government", I added, that in my mind it was, however, the union of a pack of timber wolves in quest of quarry, and that once they had attained their motto of "Win the election" (alias war) they would split up into their integral units, each seeking for the lion's share of the booty.

Again, he wrote: "But am sorry that a man who evidently thinks somewhat deeply concerning public affairs should maintain prejudice without inquiring fully as to whether or not his reasons are fair to the present Union Government. Furthermore, I find it difficult to understand how you should abandon party in order to grow enthusiastic about another party. The N.P. party is just as much a party as either of the old political parties. In the U.S. its record has not been as good as theirs. In Canada it is not showing a good record. You are a follower of "Jim Weir" and Jim Weir was stumping for Laurier throughout this campaign."

I wrote him, that, if he was but a child in political economy, he knew that the difference between the N.P. League and the old-time parties was a difference in Principle, and not in name, or in tactics. We plant our feet on the solid rock of direct legislation; and our representatives are not our bosses—but our servants. We are not political paupers, who receive gifts from the corruption funds of the Hun profiteers in our country, and get our brains confused by promises and free gifts during election days as the price of our manhood.

No—a thousand times, No! Our campaign funds are put up by every member of the League, so that we ourselves pay the election expenses of the men whom we choose to serve us, and whom we protect against the wiles of the briber by our "right of recall", while we protect ourselves against our servants' inefficiency by the same method. And as for being a follower of Jim Weir, I can only say that as a boy of eighteen, I deliberately refused to enter the banking house of Boissevain Bros., founded by my father in the thirties, and maintaining its reputation as the

house of non-speculative investment under the management of my elder and only brother, to strike out for myself in order to settle for myself the question:—"Why have others so little, when we have so much, without palpable reasons for such glaring difference?" and having got the answer to help right the wrong.

The man of over sixty fully endorses to-day the act of the boy of eighteen.

I have not only settled that question beyond the possibility of a mistake; but I have also settled the point, that there is no other possible chance of righting the wrong, than by helping to establish that democracy to defeat which the Rulers of the people crucified Christ, and to obtain which our gallant boys at the front are shedding their blood. I can no longer fight with them, but I can fight for them, and as often as the chance is given me, my voice, my pen, my money shall be devoted to the cause.

Yours in the scrap,

—DANIEL F. BOISSEVAIN.

\* \* \*

## A STAUNCH SUPPORTER

Black Diamond, Alta.,

May 30th, 1918.

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

Dear Sir:—

Thanks for your letter re my article, and I note what you say regarding its being too long, but if not published, maybe the thoughts expressed in it will sometime be of use to you.

I am sorry your paper is not of larger size, as I believe it is only by the aid of such literature that mankind will ever evolve to become a less selfish being. If there were more such papers, a real democratic government would be possible. Democracy, (i.e., Christianity) will be a fine thing when we get it.

Kindly use your own judgment regarding my contributions at any time.

Very truly yours,

—W. B. NICHOLSON.

\* \* \*

## THE RIGHT SPIRIT!

Sedgewick, Alta.,

May 17th, 1918.

THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN,  
Calgary.

Dear Sirs:—

Enclosed find Two Dollars. Please renew my subscription to the ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN for one year. You may use the other dollar to send paper to some one you think will benefit from reading same.

Yours truly,

—MRS. R. M. CROLL.

\* \* \*

## NO USE FOR IT

Coronation, May 23rd, 1918.

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

Kindly take my name off mailing list, as I don't like your paper, and oblige,

—J. H. ROBINSON.

\* \* \*

## WANTS MORE OF IT

Box 108, Irvine, May 28th.

Dear Editor:—

I like the NON-PARTISAN paper, but I didn't get the last issues. I know some of my neighbors would like to have it too and I would like you to send me some, so that they may order it. Please send along as soon as you can, as I don't like to miss it.

Yours truly,

—J. G. ENGEL.

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MY LECTURE TOUR IN ALBERTA

By F. J. Dixon, M.L.A., of Winnipeg



"Sunny Alberta"! At first I thought it was going to be snowy Alberta, but the weather presently redeemed itself and the reputation of the Province.

When I arrived in Calgary on the 23rd, at 6 a.m., the first thing I ran up against was Secretary J. H.

Ford of the Non-Partisan League, who was followed later by Organizer B. C. Moore, and before I left for Didsbury at nine o'clock, I was pretty well informed with regard to the progress of the League in Alberta.

The first thing that greeted me at Didsbury was snow, and then more snow, but we had a meeting at night, and about one hundred turned out. Mr. Theo. Reist, President of the Didsbury U.F.A., was in the chair. Among other live wires at this meeting were B. H. Sherk, and Organizer Vahey. Mr. Vahey conveyed me to Three Hills in his Ford the next day, a distance of some forty miles, and we took the snow with us, which of course ensured a hearty welcome for us from the farmers, the atmospheric moisture making up for any dryness there might be in the speeches. The meeting at Three Hills was the annual rally of the U.F.A., which is very strong at this point, the branch having some one hundred and fifty members. Mr. A. A. Dakin presided, and in addition to speeches by Mrs. J. H. Ross, Vice-President of the U.F.W.A., and E. Carswell, an old U.F.A. man, who is trying to buck the packing plants, there were a number of excellent musical numbers.

From Three Hills I returned to Calgary and found a big program mapped out for Sunday, being billed to speak three times, and owing to excellent and considerate entertainment by the Calgary progressives, managed to get away with it.

The Calgary Forum, where I spoke in the afternoon is the equal, if not the superior, of any Forum organization in Canada, its only serious rival in the point of average attendance being Ottawa. In both cities the Forum management have adopted what seems to be the wise plan of holding their meetings in a theatre in the centre of the city. Of course something more than a favorable location is necessary to make a Forum a success, and the Calgary folk certainly have this something.

On Monday I went to Vulcan, where I was met by Guy Johnson, Manager of the Co-Operative lumber yard at that point, and he is some "guy", what you would call a real live wire, and so is Ed. Charters, who is a dyed-in-the-wool single taxer. The meeting there drew a fair attendance, some one hundred and twenty persons turning out. Guy Johnson was chairman, and suggested that the Vulcan people should get on the Chautauqua circuit and in that way have speakers address them from time to time, which idea met with a very favorable reception.

The next day Mr. Arnstead took me from Vulcan to Staveland, where the attendance was the best, outside of Calgary, on this trip so far. S. T. Marshall was in the chair, and Jas. Weir, M.L.A., gave one of his characteristic performances, mixing wit, humor and common sense in the right proportions to warm the hearts of the free and independent electors. He is evidently solid with his own people, and

likely to hold down his job in the Legislature until called to a higher sphere.

Staveland is celebrated for giving a good start to the Non-Partisan League in Alberta, and it is doing its best, and a good best at that, to live up to its reputation.

It is now well recompensed for its vision and pioneer work in the district being responsible for sending two good members to the Legislature. Other parts of the Province are now following its lead and at every point I spoke I found the farmers—thanks to the organizations at work amongst them—were "getting wise" to their position in society and fully alive to the necessity for direct and independent political action.

AN OPEN LETTER

Craigmyle, Alta.,

To the Chairman & Executive of

the U.F.A.

Dear Sirs:—

I learn from my paper that your Board meets to-morrow, and that the question of taking our farm help will likely again be considered. I had intended taking no part by discussion or otherwise, but your late decision is so diametrically opposed to the views and wishes of the rank and file of our organization that I feel I would be remiss in my duty to them, to the farmers who staked their all in their effort to put in a big crop that as a consequence he may not be able to harvest, and to the cause of the Allies if I did not speak out. We consider your action regrettable in every way, and hope that it will not result in a split in our splendid organization. None of us can understand why you should have sent the Government a resolution that they evidently and unhesitatingly construed as approval of their action. It seems to us that the proper course for you, was; to present a true statement of the farmers' needs as the Eastern farmers did and leave it with the Government to assume the responsibility. Anything further, to my mind, must be construed and is being construed by our members as party politics. Is it because we have Messrs. Crerar, Maharg et al, in the so-called Union Government? It is dangerous ground, and I have always felt that our men and our official organ should have remained independent,—we are, I repeat, on extremely dangerous ground.

I have no desire to swat Conscription, it is the law of the land—but to say as is sometimes said—that the farmers voted for conscription or for the conscription of the other fellow, is beside the mark. Some did. In many cases their vote against it was swamped by the vote of the towns, villages and cities, an emasculated and corrupted franchise and unless appearances belie—a scandalously manipulated soldiers' vote—and re-vote. Many were carried away by the changed attitude of "The Guide", appeals to race prejudice and the like. I have no thought of arguing against Conscription,—now that it is law, but against the stand taken by you and hope in the interest of peace and progress of the U.F.A. the restoration of confidence of sister organizations in us, the cause of justice to many a poor farmer who staked his all on doing as he was told, and the removal of the misconception of our need of experienced help that your late resolution fosters, that you will recall it and take your stand on sane and safe ground. If you are in any doubt as to the conclusions I have drawn, appeal to the local unions or call a special convention.

Yours fraternally,

—S. STEVENSON.



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FORD AND CHEVROLET SPECIALISTS

# My Impressions of the Legislature

By Alex. Ross, M.L.A.



The speech from the Throne formed the subject for a short debate. The reason for such brevity in all the speeches was not because of lack of material in the original but rather due to a virtue that was much in evidence during the whole session.

The long-distance orators were conspicuous by their absence; short speeches are a tendency of the times, and I am sure will be as much appreciated by an audience as it was by the members of the Legislature.

A great deal more discussion took place on the Premier's report from the Ottawa conference than on the Speech from the Throne. A few of the Premier's own supporters even condemned him for his attitude at the conference, claiming that he ought to have adopted a different policy in his efforts to secure control of the Natural Resources.

The rebels in the government camp seem to be few in number. During the debate, however, the speeches reached a high order. Nothing startling came of this flow of oratory. The Premier was alternately admonished and praised, finally all were agreed that the next time the Premier went to Ottawa he must bring back the Natural Resources in his pocket.

At the conclusion of this debate, the House settled down to its monotonous routine; committees were named and went assiduously to work. Almost every morning at ten o'clock for a month the Municipal Law committee, of which I was a member, met to discuss charter amendments. Should anyone desire to become versed in the intricacies of municipal government, I would recommend a course in civics by attending the meetings of the Municipal Law committee. Needless to say there is quite a distinction between the text book in civics used in our public schools and the practical demonstration.

Being open to the public, a large number of interested people were usually present; notably real estate speculators who got caught in the land boom. Their only problem seemed to be how they could best avoid paying taxes on what they call farm lands within the cities. From 1910 to 1912, these speculators were anxious to have the cities extend their boundary lines in order that these same farm lands would become more valuable. In boom days, they dreamed of residential lots, instead of the humble "spud"; some, I am told, even took a mortgage on the future and spent a winter in California.

Now the scene has changed. These gentlemen were wintering in Edmonton, and maintained an animated discussion on taxation during the sometimes heated debates of the committee.

The Edmonton charter amendments came first. They were voluminous, dealing mostly with taxation. I am quite sure that no animate or inanimate thing in or about Edmonton was overlooked by the finance committee of the Edmonton City Council. They did their work thoughtfully. The economic theories of such men as Ricardo, Mill, Marx, or even the Calgary Bureau of Municipal Research were entirely discarded. Their desire and enthusiasm to tax all and sundry naturally brought storms of protest from those who were to be taxed.

First came the bank managers, who were very indignant at the proposed raid on their exchequer. They put up such a pitiful tale of hard luck that it brought tears to the eyes of the members.

The Mayor of Edmonton was obdurate. Had Edmonton not got six million dollars of uncollected taxes? He must have the money. The banks were all right, but—

The C. P. R. had taxable property in Edmonton which the finance committee had not overlooked, neither had the Provincial Treasurer. While the Mayor and the Provincial Treasurer were arguing as to whether the city or the province were entitled to this tit-bit, the C. P. R. agents were fighting with the members incidentally telling them how absurd it was to tax a company that had done so much to build up Canada, etc., etc.

Strange to say, all those elements who were opposed to being taxed, agreed unanimously that an income tax was desirable provided that the taxable income was low enough to catch those who were paying no taxes. Non-tax-paying citizens were defined as those who did not own property, but were squandering their income on riotous living; such as clerks in stores earning eight dollars per week; or the laborer with his munificent twenty-five cents per hour; it was generally felt that those people should be compelled to pay something for the privilege of living in Edmonton, and thereby hangs a tale.

The Charter amendment asked for was in effect that salaries, wages or incomes be taxed; any person receiving from one dollar to five hundred dollars per year would pay one-half per cent; from five hundred dollars to one thousand, one per cent. The rate increased as the income increased.

Through the efforts of some members of the committee the minimum taxable income was finally agreed upon at five hundred dollars for bachelors, and one thousand for married men. The income tax on property owners assessed at three thousand dollars to be offset in taxes. When the report of the committee came before the House, the minimum taxable income was increased to one thousand dollars.

My friends in Edmonton now inform me that the last motion, fixing the minimum taxable income at one thousand dollars has been changed by someone, and the original amendment substituted, which means that the Edmonton City Council are now empowered to collect an income tax on wages however small they may be. If this is true, and I haven't yet had time to verify it, we have reason to be alarmed at some of the things done in the secret archives of the Legislative buildings.

Probably the most audacious request of any deputation that appeared before this committee was made by the Press Association. The deputation consisted of Mr. Woods, of the Calgary Herald, and Mr. Galbraith, of Red Deer. Their request was in effect that the cities be compelled to advertise their tax sales for a certain period in the daily press. Edmonton had already experimented with this method of advertising tax sales with the result that it cost them about as much for advertising as they received from the tax sale. The Edmonton Journal, a twin brother of the Calgary Herald, is reported to have bought a new press from the proceeds. This cold-blooded proposition of the apostles of Good Government, I am glad to say was not received with any manifestations of enthusiasm.

(Continued in next issue.)

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## LIFE AND WORK

### PLANS OF THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER

#### Article IV

Great expectancy is the attitude of the modern mind. But while expectancy is optimistic and healthy, it of itself will get us nowhere. There must be intelligent preparation for the new social structure; plans must be drawn, and master builders selected and entrusted with the construction of the democratic institutions that must supersede the present individualistic structures of Society.

It is at this point where most radical thinkers fail. They are clear on the necessity for destroying the "old" and absolutely convinced that the "new" must and will come, but few have had the practical vision to trace the same progressive steps of procedure, or to temper and forge the proper connecting link between the old and the new. This is the outstanding failure of all revolutions, the most recent example of which is furnished in Russia. Everybody was going somewhere, but none knew **where**, with the result that while the revolution may succeed in destroying Czarism, it seems impotent in the art of social reconstruction. The whole Russian spectacle is so repugnant as to inspire with fear all who work toward a better social order, and will serve as an impressive object lesson for preparedness to the nations of the world.

If we look at the existing chaos in our Canadian public mind, we will see that we have as indefinite an outline of the future as the proletariat of Russia.

Take for example the proposed solutions of the economic question alone. Granted that this is the basis of every social order, yet it must be agreed upon by the masses before the foundation can be led. But there is no agreement. There are hosts of proposals all of which spring from one of four general principles. These four we shall look at briefly, in order to show that we cannot build a new order until we agree largely on the foundation stone at least, or we shall be like the builders of Babel—confounded with many tongues; and also to show, if possible, the most worthy principle of the four.

By far the greatest number of the people adhering to any one principle accept that of the present order, which is "Get all you can; give as little as you can for it, and don't trouble about any one else." This system is of course pernicious, and admitted to be so by many who believe in it on the grounds that it is here, and the

only thing that will work. Without stopping to point out the fallacies of the arguments in favor of this, we will pass to the next view.

Many people believe that the only system to follow in the future is to pay every person exactly what he or she works for—not a cent more or less. Apart from the fact that this is but a re-statement industrially of the law of the Jungle, it has other discrepancies that render it impracticable. It is Jungle Justice to permit the strong to have all they want, which the machinery of modern industry would make possible to the most efficient worker, but it is not clear that one has no right to live because his needs exceed his producing ability. But the chief objection to this is that owing to the socialization of industry it is impossible to say how much of any commodity has been actually produced by an individual, and hence the principle has no merit beyond the words used in its construction.

Others hold that every person should get the same amount of commodities, no matter how much they do. This seems at the outset more feasible than any of the other principles, but when looked at closely we see that its fundamental error is its disregard for human nature. It says every person shall get the same kind and quantity of clothes, and food, and that all shall live in the same kind of houses, etc. This means not only injustice in the sense that if you and I both get the same allowance for breakfast, while my appetite is twice what yours is, giving you more than you can use, while I have but half enough, but it tends to reduce to uniformity, and from uniformity to mediocrity, and from mediocrity to decay.

One other way of solving the economic problem remains, and that principle might be stated as follows: Every person must do **all possible service**, and get in return **all that is needed**. This is the only really just principle, and for that very reason perhaps is most unpopular. But it may be said that this, like the others, is impracticable until the people not only believe in it, but are morally and intellectually prepared to adopt it.



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## DOLLARS AND SENSE

The habit, so universal in this utilitarian age, of viewing everything from the standpoint of its pecuniary value, has so often been inveighed against, and with so little apparent result, that we doubt the efficacy of anything we may have to advance on the subject. On every hand, in relation to every form of activity, and in connection with whatsoever movement, be it religious, political, or educational, the primary question seems to be, "What can be got out of this?" rather than, "What can be put into it?"

No more striking exemplification of this mercenary spirit could be cited, than the proposition recently put up to the merchants of Calgary by a certain peripatetic evangelist, that by casting their bread upon the waters, in the form of a financial backing of his soul-saving campaign, it might, after many days, return to them in increased business.

A similar admixture of idealistic ecstasy and worldly wisdom is apparent in the appeals from time to time put forth to the people, to invest in war loans; the motives appealed to being, firstly, that by so doing they will forward the cause of freedom, democracy and righteousness, and secondly, that such investment will secure to them a very substantial rate of interest, with the maximum of security and the minimum of risk.

In the political world, the idea once held by old-fashioned statesmen, that politics should concern itself only with the law, and not at all with the profits, has long since been abandoned, on this continent at least, for the more modern view so eloquently expressed by James Russell Lowell—

"I du believe in bein' this  
Or thet, ez it may happen  
One way or t'other hendiest is  
To ketch the people nappin';  
It ain't by princeples nor men  
My prudent course is steadiest—  
I scent which pays the best, an' then  
Go into it balheaded."

And now, in the educational field, along comes Dr. Scott, Superintendent of Calgary's schools, to demolish another of our fond illusions,—that the purpose of study is, as Montaigne asserts, to make us wiser, better, and honester—with a suggestion as to the "cash value" of education. Dr. Scott, it appears, has compiled some statistics, going to prove that if a boy leaves school at fourteen, he is "practically uneducated"—a remarkable statement, surely, coming from such a source—and his earning power is unlikely to be more than \$900 per year, whereas if he stays until he is eighteen, he "should be

worth" at least \$1500 per year, so that if he works 36 years, he will have gained \$21,600 from that four years' schooling.

Putting this theory to a practical test, by a glance at the "Help Wanted" columns of the local dailies, we could but recall Disraeli's sarcastic remark on the varying degrees of untruth,—"*Lies, d— lies, and statistics,*" for we note that the average salary offered to school teachers in this Province, in these H.C.L. days, amounts to the munificent sum of \$900 per year, rather less than the remuneration of unskilled labor. The inference must be, if Dr. Scott's statistics are correct, either that school teachers are classed as "practically uneducated" persons, or else that there is considerable discrepancy between what they "should be worth" and what they actually receive.

It would surely have been more to the point had Dr. Scott backed up his theory by some concrete facts, rather than by statistics, however carefully compiled. A list of millionaires, living or dead, whose millions had been acquired through and by virtue of their superior education, might, for instance, carry considerable weight in this respect. From our personal experience of money kings, local or otherwise—though we cannot lay claim to more than a nodding acquaintance with such—we can hardly pretend to have been greatly impressed by their erudition; rather are we inclined to apply to most of them the familiar lines which the author of the immortal "Elegy" penned with a very different strata of society in mind—

"Knowledge to their eyes her ample page,  
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er unroll."

"Great communities", says Bernard Shaw, "are built by men who sign with a mark; they are wrecked by men who write Latin verses." Which remark we might paraphrase to read; great fortunes are built by men who eat peas with a knife, they are dissipated by men who have had all the advantages of a college education.

The truth about the millionaire is that he is usually so ignorant of all that goes to make life worth living, so oblivious, like Bunyan's man with the muck-rake, to everything outside of mere money grubbing that he is able to concentrate his mind—or what passes with him for such—on the acquisition of wealth, to the utter exclusion of everything else, and succeeds by reason of the absence of any other interest to distract him from his purpose.

Hence, the possession of a high school or college education would be likely to act rather as a deterrent, than as an aid, to financial success, while the uneducated man, prevented by his very ignorance from perceiving the difficulties in his path,

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goes straight to his goal, the educated man is debating within himself the pros and cons of any particular line of action, his native hue of resolution sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought, and indecision ends in inactive and ultimate failure.

Far be it from us to disparage education as such, but the acquisition of knowledge, like the pursuit of virtue, has always been, to a very great extent, its own reward, and we fear that any young hopeful whose fond parents are induced, by Dr. Scott's statistics, into keeping him at school till he reaches marriageable or conscriptionable age, even though, as a result, he may, like Maculay, overflow with learning and stand in the slop, will find that in the rush for wealth, he is out-distanced by some ignoramus who knows nothing of Shakespeare or Bacon, but has gall enough to corner eggs, or ingenuity enough to invent a new style of wagging his feet before a movie camera. —SARDONICUS.

#### THE CALGARY EXHIBITION

The prize list of the Calgary Industrial may be had by writing to E. L. Richardson, the Manager, Calgary, Alberta. The entries close on June 13th.

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One hundred and ten thousand visitors took a holiday last year at the Calgary Exhibition, and the number will most likely be considerably increased this year. After such a hard year's work in the interests of production, there never was a time when a holiday was more deserved, or more essential, to Western Canadian residents.

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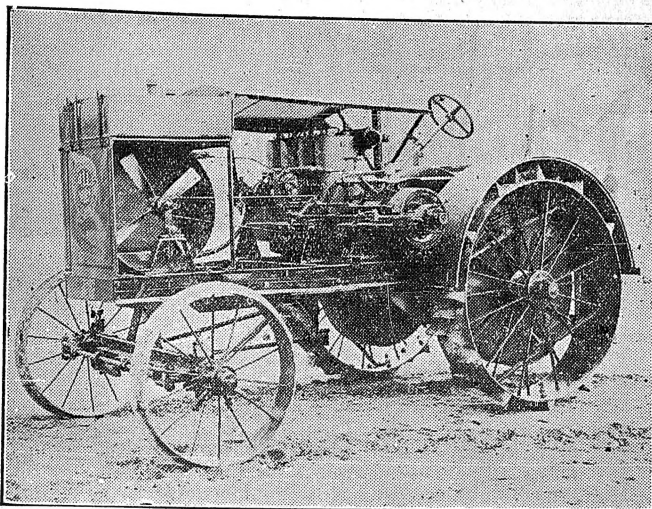
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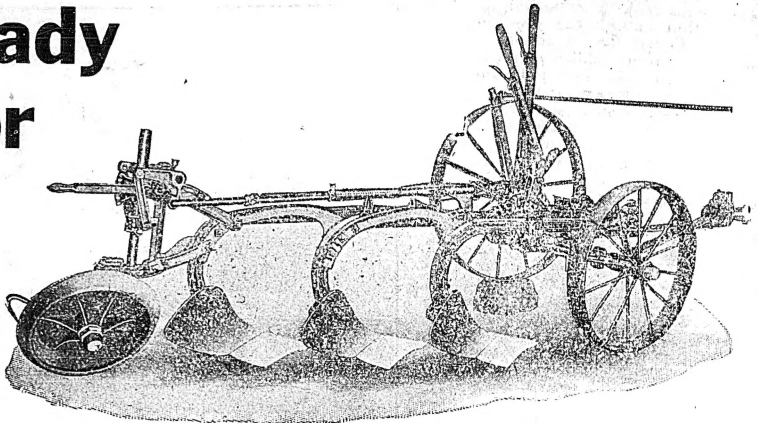
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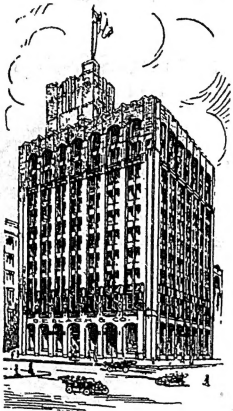
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